

do better than this. Mr. Pitt should be removed and we should put in place at the Securities and Exchange Commission someone who will provide justice to American pensioners, stockholders, and employees.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE IN AMERICA'S HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the next few moments this evening, I want to share a story about a remarkable act of providence in American history. By remarkable providence, I mean an example of one of those small twists and turns in history that could have turned out otherwise but did not. And as a function of that, in so many ways, we are gathered here today in a city that bears the name of a man named Washington.

It was the year 1755, 20 years before the American Revolution. The British were fighting the French over territory along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. And I think of a 23-year-old soldier who found himself in the midst of a conflagration.

The Americans were sided, Mr. Speaker, with the British, and most of the Indians sided with the French. Tensions grew, diplomatic solutions failed, so Great Britain sent 2,300 soldiers to join the rugged untrained American militias to fight the French.

A 23-year-old colonel led the Virginia militia, about 100 buckskins who had volunteered to fight. The British soldiers joined them, and over a thousand men made their way north toward Fort Duquesne, now known as the City of Pittsburgh. It was a long march in the summer, a few hundred miles along wooded paths. The Red Coats and militia could not have been more different; one orderly and disciplined, dressed in red wool and uniforms, another a ragtag bunch of young farmers, driven by passion, adventure, and a love of freedom. The differences would be important in what was about to confront them.

Seven miles from the fort on July 9, 1755, the soldiers were ambushed in a wooded ravine. They were trapped on every side. The French and Indians fired shots from behind rocks and deep in the woods from high in the trees and behind the brush. The British tried to line up in traditional military lines, shoulder to shoulder, but the shots came from behind them and above them. They were familiar with open field fighting, not ambushes deep in the woods.

Over 700 British and American troops died, compared to only 30 French and Indians. Eighty-six officers fought in the battle, according to historian David Barton, and only one of those officers remained unhurt after the ambush, and still bestride his horse. It

was that 23-year-old American leader from the Virginia militia.

The colonel assembled what remained of his men and retreated to Fort Cumberland on the western side of Maryland. There he wrote a letter to his family explaining what had happened. He recounted the battle, the death of his men, the British officers, and how he had removed his jacket after the battle and found four bullet holes in it. Four horses had been shot out from underneath George Washington that day. Bullet fragments were in his hair. And he wrote a letter to his family that he was completely unharmed, and said, "By the all powerful dispensations of Providence I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation."

Fifteen years later, in a time of peace, he would return to that same battlefield, and an Indian chief traveled a great distance to see him. That Indian chief had preyed upon those Virginia militiamen that day. He had ordered his men to shoot every officer. But as Washington would recount many times later in life, the Indian chief had sat him down and told him that he had come to meet him to pay homage "to the man who is a particular favorite of heaven; a man who could never die in battle."

Mr. Speaker, George Washington's life would lead him from those humble 23-year-old miraculous events in battle to greater things. He always understood throughout his life, with a deep Christian humility, that he was part of a grand design. A grand design for America.

□ 1815

A design yet to be fulfilled. That made him humble and grateful to be one such man that would shape the lives of millions to come. Like George Washington, I believe that every one of our lives is guided by that invisible hand, that everything happens for a reason. That in every moment from our greatest trials to our greatest triumphs, from small unanticipated events can come the great unimaginable feats of history, discovering land, freeing slaves, defeating tyranny, and maybe even defeating the mindlessness of terrorism. Behind each great turning point in history, I will always believe, as George Washington did, that there is a providential hand leading willing hearts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHUSTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING SYD FINLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago a good friend of mine, Syd Finley, died at the Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois. But before his death, his life personified that of a premier activist. He made effective use of himself to bring about positive and progressive change.

After graduating from high school and Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, he began work as a recreational therapist for the State. He served in the military and fought in the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Combat Medic Badge, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Merit Unit Citation.

In 1961, he was appointed Midwest director of the NAACP and moved his family from Galesburg to what was then segregated Wheaton. Real estate brokers only took him to the parts of town where African American families lived, and African American children were not bused to school like white children, and businesses would not consider hiring blacks.

Therefore, Syd started meeting with the school board and city council members. Mr. Finley's style of operating proved to be quite effective; and he not only brought about change in his neighborhood, but he also brought about change for thousands of others through his work at the NAACP.

Mr. Finley took his children to civil rights marches in Selma, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and Washington, D.C. As a leader of the NAACP's Fair Program in the 1980s, Mr. Finley got hundreds of people hired into management jobs at Fortune 500 companies and was appointed Illinois Governor Jim Thompson's Assistant for Minority Affairs.

Syd worked at Argonne National Laboratory from 1973 to 1980; and under his leadership, minority employment increased from 9 percent to 14 percent and female employment from 12 percent to 24 percent.

Mr. Finley joined Medical Management of America in 1994 and became vice president of Community and Media Relations for Doctor's Hospital of Hyde Park. He was a founder of the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1979. He led a full and complete life.

He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory his wife, Mary Lou; three children, Sidney Finley, III; Robin Hines; and William Christopher Finley; two sisters, Dorothy Newman and Delores Ford; and two grandchildren.

Syd Finley was indeed a unique person and able to influence the thinking and behavior of others. He was an effective leader and a great American. We revere his life, mourn his passing, and shall cherish his memory.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.